

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 230245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9556

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5111

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TW

SUBJECT: SWITCH IN PREMIER'S LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS WITH
US AGENCIES

1. ADMIRAL YEH CHANG-TUNG, PREMIER'S AIDE FOR SENSITIVE LIAISON WITH EMBASSY AND OTHER US AGENCIES, CALLED RECENTLY TO STATE HE WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE AND WOULD BE REPLACED FOR OUR LIAISON PURPOSES BY FRED CHIEN, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE, WHO WOULD WEAR TWO HATS. LAST WEEK, PREMIER CONFIRMED INFORMATION DURING CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE BUT SAID CHANGE WAS TEMPORARY UNTIL A NEW MAN (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) COMES BACK FROM WASHINGTON TO REPLACE YEH IN OCTOBER. CCK IN NO WAY SUGGESTED DISSATISFACTION WITH YEH'S PERFORMANCE, STRESSING INSTEAD THAT HE HAD TRANSFERRED YEH TO THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIS CAREER THAN SERVING TOO LONG AS AN AIDE.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, FRED CHIEN COMPLICATED MATTERS FURTHER BY SAYING HE WILL BE AWAY FOR A MONTH AND THAT OUR INTERIM LIAISON WILL BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICE NAMED LEE YU-SHENG, WHO IS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM MOFA TO THE EXECUTIVE YUAN. CHIEN SAID YEH'S ULTIMATE REPLACEMENT WILL BE A VERY CAPABLE YOUNG MAN BUT DECLINED TO IDENTIFY HIM. APPARENTLY, IT IS NOT GENERAL PAT WEN.

3. WE ARE SOMEWHAT RELIEVED THAT CHIEN WILL NOT BE OUR
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NORMAL LIAISON CHANNEL WITH PREMIER. WHILE WE HAVE EVERY

CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY AND INTEGRITY, WE FEAR THAT
CHIEN MIGHT BE RATHER MORE OF A FILTER THAN SIMPLY A
COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL, AS ADMIRAL YEH HAS BEEN. NEVERTHELESS,
CHIEN'S SELECTION BY THE PREMIER TO FILL IN ON EVEN
A TEMPORARY BASIS IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE ESTEEM
WITH WHICH HE IS HELD BY CCK, AND OF THE LATTER'S
INCLINATION TO TURN TO CHIEN FOR HANDLING SENSITIVE
MATTERS.
GLEYSTEN

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